

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. This supplemental amendment is filed to clarify the claimed invention. The arguments made in the previous RCE are incorporated in their entirety. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 10-12, 15-18, and 20-27 are pending in this application. Claims 16 and 19 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer in this reply. Claims 28-35 have been added as new claims in this reply. Claims 10, 21, 32, and 33 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 10, 21, and 33. Claims 10 and 21 have been amended for clarification. These amendments are fully supported by the original specification (see, for example, page 16, lines 19-27) and no new matter has been added.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner has noted that the Information Disclosure Statement filed May 25, 2005 fails (in part) to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3) because it does not include a concise explanation of the relevance of each patent listed. However, Applicant respectfully notes that a translated Office Action was submitted, noted at BC, with the Information Disclosure Statement of May 25, 2005. The Office Action cites the documents the Examiner has currently marked as not having been considered. Additionally, the Office Action details the relevance of each of these non-English references. Pursuant to MPEP 609, "where the information listed is not in the English language, but was cited in a search report or other action by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, the requirement for a concise explanation of relevance can be

satisfied by submitting an English language version of the search report or action which indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office.” Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests full consideration of all references listed on the Information Disclosure Statement of May 25, 2005.

New Claims

Claims 28-35 have been added in this reply. New claims 28 and 29 depend from independent claim 10. Independent claim 10 is patentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,155,376 issued to Cheng (“Cheng”), U.S. Patent No. 5,000,636 issued to Wallace (“Wallace”), and U.S. Patent No. 5,827,027 issued to Wakabayashi (“Wakabayashi”), whether taken separately or in combination, for at least the reasons presented in the RCE filed December 16, 2005. Accordingly, dependent claims 28 and 29 are patentable for at least the same reasons.

New claims 30 and 31 depend from independent claim 21. Independent claim 21 is patentable over Cheng and Wakabayashi for at least the reasons presented in the RCE filed December 16, 2005. Accordingly, dependent claims 30 and 31 are patentable for at least the same reasons.

New claim 32 is an independent claim. Claim 32 recites an electrically driven power steering apparatus including a housing, a ball screw shaft extending within the housing and connected to a steering mechanism, a motor having a rotor, a ball screw nut connected to the rotor of the motor, a bearing for supporting the ball screw nut so as to be rotatable with respect to the housing, and a presser member screwed to the ball screw nut for pressing the bearing against the ball screw nut. The presser member has a connecting device capable of limiting a relative rotating between the presser member and the ball screw nut by deforming at least one

part of a thin cylindrical portion toward the ball screw nut, thereby by limiting a relative rotation after the threads are fastened. The relative rotation between the presser member and the ball screw nut is limited by a frictional force exerted between the deformed part of the thin cylindrical portion and the ball screw nut. The presser member has a female thread, the ball screw nut has a male thread engaged with the female thread, the presser member abuts the bearing rotatably supporting the ball screw nut, and the presser member has a part with which a tool for rotating the pressing member is engaged.

Cheng, Wallace, and Wakabayashi, whether considered separately or in combination, fail to show or suggest the present invention as claimed. Cheng, Wallace, and Wakabayashi fail to show or suggest a presser member having a connecting device capable of limiting the relative rotation between the presser member and the ball screw nut by deforming at least one part of a thin cylindrical portion toward the ball screw nut. Further, Cheng, Wallace, and Wakabayashi fail to show or suggest a function of limiting a relative rotation between a presser member and a ball screw nut performed after the threads are fastened. In view of the above, new claim 32 is patentable over Cheng, Wallace, and Wakabayashi.

New claim 33 is an independent claim. Claim 33 recites a method of manufacturing an electrically driven power steering apparatus having a housing, a ball screw shaft extending within the housing and connected to a steering mechanism; a motor having a rotor; a ball screw nut connected to the rotor of the motor for converting a rotational force of the motor into a force acting in an axial direction and transferring the same force to the ball screw shaft; a bearing for supporting the ball screw nut so as to be rotatable with respect to the housing; and a presser member screwed to the ball screw nut for pressing the bearing against said ball screw nut, the method comprising: engaging a thread of said presser member with a

thread of the ball screw nut and limiting a relative rotation between the presser member and the ball screw nut after said engaging.

Cheng, Wallace, and Wakabayashi, whether considered separately or in combination, fail to show or suggest limiting a relative rotation between a presser member and a ball screw nut after engaging a thread of the presser member with a thread of the ball screw nut. Accordingly, new claim 33 is patentable over Cheng, Wallace, and Wakabayashi for at least this reason. Dependent claims 34 and 35 are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 10122/005002).

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Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments